

THE BULLETIN.

Vol. I.

EDMONTON, N. W. T., MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1881.

No. 1.

TELEGRAPHIC.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 1st, 1881.

Meetings are being held all over at which the Pacific Railway terms are condemned. The Conservative papers are urging their friends to get up counter demonstrations on the subject. They do not respond. The fact is the rank and file of the party are in deadly opposition to the bargain, and so express themselves.

Mr. Mills has asked for statements showing why there had been a total failure of the food supply of Indians in the North-West.

Also why correspondence relating to the dismissal of an Indian Agent in the North-West had not been brought down.

It is reported that negotiations by the Manitoba & South-Western Railway Co. for a loan in the English market have fallen through. The Syndicate is supposed to be the cause.

Schultz has sold out his interest in the South-Western.

Three men named McGrath and one young woman named Blake, were instantly killed near Lucan, Ont., on Christmas Day, a sleigh in which they were driving having been run into by a railway train.

A fire occurred at Bridgewater, N. S., on Dec. 27th. A hotel and several buildings were burned. Two children named Ernst were also burned.

A mysterious crime has been discovered near North-Augusta, Ont. A woman, aged 88, was found brutally murdered. There was no apparent object for the crime, and no clue to the murderer.

BATTLEFORD, Jan. 2nd, 1881.

Mail for the West left yesterday at 4 p. m.

The Saskatchewan "Herald" says that the night of 1st November, nine men deserted from the police force, at Fort Walsh. Eight of them were re-captured. It is supposed that a craze about newly found gold diggings in Montana led them to commit the foolish act. If we might venture an opinion, perhaps the late reduction in the pay of the force may have had something to do with it.

A Mr. Patrick, D. L. S., from Bow River, has been disporting himself in Winnipeg lately, "attired in the garb of a regular Montana ranger," as the "Times" elegantly puts it. Wonder if this is anything like the Confederate uniform described by P. V. Nasby, "A hole in the seat of the pants, with the tail of the shirt waving gracefully therefrom."

Lieut. Col. Irvine has been appointed Commissioner of the Mounted Police. There will be no Assistant Commissioner appointed.

NEW YEAR'S.

Business was generally suspended on the 1st. The weather was comparatively mild, and in the afternoon a crowd of about 200, including a number of ladies, gathered at the Edmonton Race Track, on the Methodist Church property, to see the races. A purse of over one hundred dollars had been made up to be distributed in prizes.

First on the programme was a half mile horse race—all comers, barring Blackbird, Little Angus, Big Enough and Vainlandingham; five entries.—Campbell's Shoo-Fly, Abram's Big-knee, Wilson's Surprise, McDougall's Captain and McPherson's Brown. Big Knee led at the start, and came in ahead, hard pressed by Surprise, with Captain a fair third and the other two no where. First prize, \$57, second, \$28 50. As the first class horses were barred not much interest was manifested in this race, and very little money changed hands on the result.

After the race was over Blackbird was taken half way down the track for a run, to show the public that there was something in him, and although held in he passed the crowd like a storm. Little Angus was also shown up, on a quarter mile run, and went at a light easy gait. Both horses left the impression that they could run some, although Big-Enough is still cock of the walk.

Next was a 100 yds. foot race. Three entries.—M. Carlyn, A. Rowland and W. Rowland. A. Rowland led until near the finish, when he mistook the winning post and stopped, Carlyn passing him, taking 1st prize, \$3; A. Rowland 2nd, \$1.

The three legged race was won by H. Fraser and Leroc, with C. W. Sutter and G. S. Wood second and nearly a tie. Distance—50 yds.; 1st prize \$3, 2nd, \$1 50.

There were five or six entries for the 300 yds. race. Won by A. Rowland, who led from start to finish, closely followed by M. Carlyn second, and S. Cunningham third. Cunningham was second until near the finish, when Carlyn put on steam and passed him. First prize, \$3, 2nd \$1 50.

For the slow race, the only animal spoken of, was Mr. W. E. Young's mare Nelly, and the event was declared off.

The blindfold race, 50 yds., was won by Cunningham, A. Rowland second. First prize \$2, 2nd \$1.

An Indian boy's race, 50 yds., for candies, was well contested by two youngsters, but as our paper is small we are unable to afford space for their names.

Everything passed off quietly and to the satisfaction of all.

The C. P. R. will run into Portage La Prairie.

WHY is there not a money order office at Edmonton? These offices are established by the Post Office Department, for the benefit of parties who wish to send sums of money to other places without risk, and are a great convenience. If there is one place in the Dominion where such an office is needed that place is Edmonton. Every mail hundreds, and sometimes thousands of dollars are sent away, exposed to all the accidents that can occur on a thousand miles of trackless plain. Surely the Government that is going to lavish so many millions in giving us a railroad, will not think twice about granting such a small request as that for a money order office.

LOCAL.

THE mail is expected up on Saturday next.

THE Edmonton Mills are expected to start gristing this week.

THE H. B. C., is selling Prince Albert flour at \$12 per 100lbs.

VERY few Indians are camped around the Fort this year as yet.

BUFFALO are still scarce this side of the line and likely to remain so.

THE cows received at the Government farm, at Peace Hills, are doing well.

CHIEFS SAMSON AND ERMINE Skin, from Peace Hills, were in last week for freight.

THE road from here to Victoria is broke on the river as far as the Wah-sat-now creek.

MR. WM. CUST has made arrangements to have 5,000 bushels of wheat ground at the new mill.

CHIEF BOB TAIL, of Peace Hills, has been away to Bull Lake recently for Jack fish. He made a good catch.

THE Indian Agent is establishing soup kitchens at Victoria, Saddle Lake, White Fish Lake and Lac La Biche.

ONE of the work oxen belonging to Ermine Skin's band was killed recently, it is supposed by the Chief's brother.

WHISKY seizures are the rule at Fort McLeod, the heavy penalty not seeming to deter the speculation in the least.

ROBERTSON & McDONALD have split on their coal contract, and McDonald has taken in Fred Annand as a partner.

PINCHER CREEK, near Fort McLeod, has twenty-five stock ranches and farms, and oats are worth five cents per pound.

DONALD McLEOD and Joe McDonald, who had been at Victoria, with Indian Department freight, got back last Monday.

MALLETT, freighter, arrived from Fort McLeod on Friday, to take 30 saddles and other necessities to that place from Fort Saskatchewan.

COL. JARVIS who has had a severe attack of hemorrhage of the nose and inflammation of the brain, has been pronounced out of danger.

It is said the firm of Powers & Co., are about to withdraw from Fort McLeod, and prices will take an upward flight for the want of competition.

AN old Indian woman was buried at Victoria, on the 19th ult.

THE Methodist Mission Day School commenced operations again to-day.

MR. HOURSTON left on Thursday last, for the Landing, to escort Mr. Hardisty from that place to Edmonton.

THE Gagnon Bros., who are taking out logs near the White Mud, have already laid up over 400 on the river bank.

MR. R. LOGAN is getting out saw logs for the Edmonton Milling Co., at six dollars per thousand feet, board measure.

MR. JAS. VOZIER, Bow River, has been seriously ill from a severe attack of disease of the kidneys, but is now able to be around again.

SUB-CONSTABLES Chamberlyne and Smith did not go to Battleford, and we said they did. This is not our fault but the fault of he who countermanded the order.

MR. FRANK WILSON's horse ran away from the Fort on Thursday last, totally demolishing the cutter and damaging the harness. He was caught at the old mill.

SERGEANT SPICER and two men arrived on Wednesday evening—eleven days from Fort McLeod. He brought the money to pay the Stoney Indians their treaty annuity.

MR. HARDISTY returned on Friday afternoon, seven days from Slave Lake. He was accompanied by Mr. Young. The last stage of the journey, 27 miles, was made in three hours with horses.

HARRY JOHNSON and H. Harmand were at High River when Sergt. Spicer passed there. They had three horses and a flat sled, and were anxiously enquiring the shortest road to Benton.

A RAILROAD project is spoken of in the papers of running a line from Edmonton to Peace River, and also from Milk River to Peace River. Some people seem to be great on building railroads in their minds.

NORRIS & LOGAN, the H. B. C., Villiers & Pearson, Mr. W. Cust, the Lamoreaux Brothers and Mr. T. Smith, will divide the surplus grain crop of the district between them this year,—they being the only dealers.

THE soup kitchen at Victoria, was started on Friday, the 17th December. The Indians grumbled about the quantity, and didn't consider the quality good enough to pay for furnishing wood and water. Consequence, no soup on Sunday.

A STAR WELL AUGER, with 100 feet of tubular shafting, purchased by Mr. J. Coleman, is a valuable addition to the machinery brought into the country during the past season. Also—we forgot to mention it before—a printing press. Modesty forbids us to dilate.

ON the 13th ult., a destructive fire occurred at the police barracks, Fort McLeod, which completely destroyed the stables, pharmacy and workshops. It is supposed it was caused by a defective stove pipe in one of the workshops. All of the contents, excepting the horses and a four-in-hand set of harness, was destroyed.

THE BULLETIN

Will be published at Edmonton every Monday morning, from the 1st of December until the 1st of May. Subscription for the season \$2.00. Season advertisements, \$5.00 per inch. No advertisement inserted for less than one dollar. Business cards, not over four lines \$2.50. Mr. F. Wilson, at the H.B.C. store, Edmonton, and Mr. P. H. Belcher, at Fort Saskatchewan, will take subscriptions and advertisements.

TAYLOR & OLIVER, Proprietors.

EDMONTON BULLETIN, JAN. 3, 1881.

EDMONTON AGENCY.

A statement appears in the Eastern papers that "An Indian Agent in the North-West Territories has been guilty of irregularities in the expenditure of a large sum of public money." That the Agent alluded to was guilty of spending a large sum of money is true, but that he spent more than was necessary is not. Col. Stewart was appointed to this Agency late last fall, and on arriving here in the beginning of an exceptionally severe winter, found that to provide for the destitute Indians of the whole Agency, one of the largest in the Territories, he had been provided with 102 sacks of flour and 5,000lbs of bacon. There were three model farms to set in order and support, and the different bands of Indians to be provided with seed grain, work oxen and implements in the spring. Besides this, some \$4,000 of expenses that had been incurred by the former Acting Indian Agent had to be paid, and a general feeling of discontent, caused by broken promises and previous neglect on the part of the Indian Commissioner had to be allayed. Of course all this required money.

It is possible that the Agency will not cost the Government as much this year, as everything has been set in order, a year's experience has been gained by both officials and Indians, and instead of flour, bacon and beef having to be procured at any cost, contracts were let last summer for full supplies of flour and beef at low rates, and an immense quantity of bacon is in store to be used if necessary. This year flour and beef are delivered for 7 1-2cts. per lb.—last year they cost from 10 to 12 cents. The fault of this did not lay with Col. Stewart, for he was not appointed in time, neither had he the power, to let such contracts.

A great part of the time the telegraph line was down, and in several cases when he could not get word through to his superiors, he used his own judgment in the purchase and distribution of supplies, but that there was any culpable irregularity in the expenditure is false. If there was any, Mr. Dewdney surely would not have accepted the Agent's resignation, and have let the matter rest altogether without inquiry.

If the Commissioner wanted an Agent here who could keep all the premises of the Government to the Indians, and provide for all wants and exigencies without spending any money, Col. Stewart, not having the golden touch, would not suit; but if they wanted one who would deal justly by the Indians and honestly by the Government, the public here will bear witness that no better man could be found for the place.

One thing more in this connection. After Mr. Dewdney's arrival here, and the Agent's dismissal, Mr. Dewdney objected to paying a great many of the accounts held here against the Department, and some of them are unpaid yet. Why is this? As long as Col. Stewart was the agent of the Government they were bound, by right, to pay the Departmental expenses incurred by him, and if there was anything wrong in the accounts they should have looked to him to make it good. But nothing of this kind was done, and as the case now stands the Indian Department has simply swindled these people out of their money. The consequence is that the credit of the Department is decidedly below par in this district. There is scarcely an Indian on the plains, sporting the breech-clout and leggings, whose credit is not better in proportion than that of the Indian Department under the control of Mr. Dewdney.

A HARD CASE.

Last summer, the Indian Department let a contract of plowing 500 acres of land near the junction of Fish Creek and Bow River, to T. Mackenzie, of Morleyville, with the understanding that as the work progressed and money was required, vouchers would be issued, payable at Fort McLeod. When the vouchers were issued Col. McLeod refused to cash them. However, the work was proceeded with, and at the time of Mr. Dewdney's arrival, 450 acres had been finished. Mr. Dewdney examined the vouchers, remarked that he did not see any reason why they should not be paid, and promised to see to it on his arrival at Fort McLeod. Mackenzie accompanied him. Shortly after they left Fish Creek the party met Col. McLeod, who turned back with them. When they reached High River, 35 miles out, Mr. Dewdney told Mackenzie that he had better go back and stop his teams as he would not have any more ploughing done. Mackenzie got back to the farm that night, and in the morning had the land measured, got the vouchers for it, at noon started back for Fort McLeod, camped that night at the Cut Bank on Willow Creek, 90 miles from Fish Creek, and was in Fort McLeod early next morning, not eighteen hours after Mr. Dewdney. He then asked for his pay, but was put off with various excuses, and requests to call again, until he proposed to bring his blankets, and camp close to Mr. Dewdney's quarters. Mr. Dewdney then said he was going up to the Indian Farm, on Pincher Creek and would settle when he came back, but when Mackenzie volunteered to accompany him, he caved and voted the supplies, a matter of some one thousand four hundred dollars.

Query.—If I. G. Baker & Co., had been the contractors, would the pay have been as hard to get?